/5 cont./

each kettle." Unfortunately discord now arose among the Russians themselves. The above-mentioned expedition from Turuchansk had traveled down the Wiljui, captured a Cossack division sent by Bekétow, imposed on various Jakuten tribes who had previously paid their jassak to Jakutsk another such, and finally set up a winter camp on the Aldán. The Jakuten /Yakut/, outraged at such treatment, besieged the Jakutsk fort in January and February of 1634, and little was needed for the garrison to starve to death. Fortunately, however, "the Jakuten became bored and went away."

The fight ended, however, when Korýtow was taken prisoner and sent back to Turuchansk, but several Jakuten tribes, discontented with the new regiment, went in search of more distant regions--some emigrated to the Wiljui, others to the Arctic Ocean, and still others to the present Oljókminsk /Olekminsk/ district. The enterprising Jenisseisk Cossacks, however, did not rest /6/ on their laurels. In the year 1636 Jelissei /Elisei/ Búsa was sent out from Jenisseisk under orders to visit the rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean and to impose jassak on the dwellers along them. With ten Cossacks and 40 hunters, after he had wintered in Oljóminsk, he went to the mouth of the Lena in the following spring and from there, after a short journey, reached the mouth of the Olenek. "Here he went upstream until he met some Tungus, from whom he seized five sorok (5 x 40 = 200) sables as tribute; and, since winter was at hand, he built for himself and his people a hut for winter quarters." In the meantime, however, the Jakutsk Cossacks had also discovered the Olenek. From the Wiljui, which, after the expulsion of the Turuchansk people, was now open to them, they went up the Marchá /Markha/ and thus reached the upper part of the Olenek, where, in the same year that Busa appeared as conqueror on the lower course, they carried on the same business as he did, without knowing about him. In the following spring Busa traveled overland to the Lena, which he reached near Siktjach /Siktyakh/ (at 70° latitude), again built himself boats, and navigated with them again down the Lena, but then to the east, entered the Jána /Yana/, and imposed jassak on the dwellers along this river, as well as, in subsequent years, on the natives living farther to the east on the Arctic Ocean. He did not return to

53:Tokarev and Gurvich E-4 (no date) 1964
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Summer birchbark dwelling and six-cornered house.

There was another type of construction found among the Yakuts (either as a dwelling or as a cattle stall); it was a six- or eight-cornered log yurt with a pyramidal roof, identical to the well-known Buryat and Khakas structures. These yurts were observed, for example, in the regions near the mouth of the Vilyuy, in the Meginskiy and Borogonskiy ulusy, as well as in the Kolymskiy Okrug. They have been known since the 18th century. 342 178 [171]

During the 19th century the Russian type of structure—the log hut—gradually came into use among the Yakuts, particularly the better off people. At the beginning of the 20th century there were many such houses, particularly in areas near towns. A mixed type was often found: for example, a log hut built onto a yurt, a log hut with a Yakut hearth, and so on. 342 177

The living quarters and farm buildings of the family and the space surrounding them constituted the farmstead, which was fenced off with a solid fence of horizontal poles without any gates (in order to get inside the poles at one spot were removed from their supports, or else people simply stepped over them). Inside the enclosure were posts for tying up horses, and these were skillfully carved. In the summer camps the farms were often close together. 357

When speaking of structures, we should also mention the fact that in the old days the Yakuts knew how to make fortifications or ostrozhki, as they were called in the Russian texts of the 17th century. For example, in 1636-1637, during the campaign against the Kangalastay, the Russian Cossacks found that "they had built strong forts with two walls covered with gravel, and surrounded by snow and water;" it was only after a two-day assault that the Cossacks managed to take one of these forts. In 1642 the Russians also took a Yakut fortress after great difficulty: ". . . the fort was made with two walls, the space between the walls was filled with earth, and there were log towers." At a later stage these fortifications disappeared, and no one has described them since in detail. But even in the 19th century it was possible to find special tower-like barns here and there, which belonged to the Toyons. 175 648 712 726

Clothing

The national Yakut costume had only been partly preserved by the beginning of the 20th century, having been replaced by Russian clothing or at least strongly influenced by the latter. The national cut and purely Yakut materials were preserved to a greater extent in the winter clothing. 291 177 178